

Application No.: 09/281,358

Docket No.: M4065.0771/P771

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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Claim 1 (presently amended): An active pixel sensor device, comprising:

~~an~~ sensor array of pixels, arranged in logical units, wherein each pixel comprises a photosensor element, an in-pixel buffer element, and an in-pixel selector element; and a plurality of analog-to-digital converters, formed on the same substrate as said pixel sensor array, and each associated with N logical units of the pixel sensor array, each of said N logical units having including a plurality of pixels.

wherein

~~each analog-to-digital converter includes including an ADC portion which receives an analog signal from one of said pixel sensors of an associated logical unit when a said selector element associated with said one pixel is enabled, and converts said analog signal to a converted digital value indicating the output signal, and said ADC portion stores said converted digital value into one of a plurality of associated storage elements; and N-storage elements, each respectively associated with one of said plurality of analog-to-digital converters, and each for storing the converted digital value indicating the output signal,~~

~~wherein N is at least two.~~

Claim 2 (original): A sensor as in claim 1, wherein said logical units are lines of the array including either columns of the array or rows of the array.

Claim 3 (original): A device as in claim 2, wherein said analog-to-digital converters are associated with at least two adjacent lines of the array.

Claim 4 (original): A device as in claim 3, further comprising a readout controller,

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controlling readout of information from the photosensor elements, by controlling said analog-to-digital converters to each convert information from a first line of the array, to store said information from the first line of the array in one of said unit storage elements, then to read out a second line of the array, and store said information from said second line of the array in the other of said unit storage elements, and then to read out the information from all of said unit storage elements in a desired order.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method of operating a pixel sensor array, comprising:

obtaining a pixel sensor array of photosensitive elements, each having a photosensitive element in a pixel, a buffer in said pixel associated with said photosensitive element, and a selector transistor in said pixel which is enabled to allow a signal from said pixel to pass, and disabled to block the signal from passing;

connecting a plurality of said outputs of said selector transistors to one another, to form a plurality of logical units, each logical unit formed by a plurality of said output transistors which are connected to one another;

receiving, in a plurality of A/D converter units, a respective plurality of signals from a respective plurality of first logical units, and A/D converting said respective plurality of signals into a respective plurality of converted digital values and storing said respective plurality of converted digital values information in a respective plurality of first storage units;

receiving, in said plurality of A/D converter units, a respective of signals from a respective plurality of second logical units, adjacent to said first logical units, and A/D converting said respective plurality of signals into a respective plurality of converted digital values and storing said respective plurality of converted digital values in a

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respective plurality of second storage units; and

reading out said information from said A/D conversion unit in a different order than an order in which the information was converted.

Claim 6 (original): A method as in claim 5, wherein said different order is in a serial order.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method as in claim 5, wherein said units are linear units which are one of rows and columns, and said different order include a first different order which skips lines between conversions, and a second different order which is a complete order.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein each pixel is a CMOS pixel.